is available for various Industrial and Service Sector activities including hotels, adventure, leisure sports and ropeways in the North Eastern States including Sikkim.

Wine Tourism in Karnataka and Maharashtra

4276. SHRIDHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some section of industrialists are promoting Wine Tourism in the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra without the approval of the Central Government.

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government for such a move harming the basic culture of our society?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra are not promoting wine tourism in their respective States. However, as per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, wineries in the State of Maharashtra invite people to see the process of making wine.

Scheme for Rural Tourism

4277. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Rural Tourism is implemented in Goa;

(b) if so, the essential features of the scheme;

(c) the financial assistance, if any given to Goa since the commencement of the scheme;

(d) the activities carried out under the scheme in the State;

(e) whether there are success stories of the scheme in other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories including Goa for infrastructure development in rural sites under the Scheme of Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. Activities pertaining to community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are being supported through Government of India - United Nation's Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project and the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core-competencies such as culture, craft, handlooms and textile.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal from Government of Gc to be sanctioned under Rural Tourism scheme.

(e) and (f) Both domestic and international tourists have already started visiting ru a) tourism sites. Artisans from several rural tourism sites have showcased their products through